Message Text

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R 271503Z JAN 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

REF: STATE 8835

- 1. GEORGE WILSON REPORTS THAT FARNHAM, AFTER HIS VISIT TO WARSAW, IS INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR POSITION OF DIRECTOR, AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER. FARNHAM REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED BY WARM WELCOME HE RECEIVED IN WARSAW AND IS NOW PERSUADED THAT THE CENTER WOULD INDEED BE A SERIOUS SCHOLARLY ENDEAVOR.
- 2. NOMINATIONOF FARNHAM WOULD HAVE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES.

HE IS MATURE, RECOGNIZED SCHOLAR WHO APPARENTLY HAS CONFIDENCE OF WARSAW U. FROM HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AS FULBRIGHT LECTURER HE KNOWS POLAND, SPEAKS SOME POLISH, WHICH GIVES HIM CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGES OVER A DIRECTOR NEW TO POLAND. FARNHAM AND WILES WOULD BE EXPERIENCED COMBINATION AND ENABLE THE CENTER TO GET OFF TO GOOD START, EVEN THOUGH BOTH MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR ONLY ONE YEAR.

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3. AMOUNT OF STIPEND FARNHAM IS SEEKING MAY BE PROBLEM.

WE BELIEVE HE IS CURRENTLY EARNING MORE THAN DOLS. 20,000 AT ILLINOIS, AND IS EXPECTING CU TO MATCH THAT AMOUNT, WHICH COULD NOT BE DONE UNDER CURRENT PRACTICE. WILSON NOW BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AWARD FULBRIGHT GRANTS TO FARNHAM AND WILES, AND CU AGREES SINCE THIS WOULD SATISFY ONE OF THE BFS OBJECTIONS. IF FARNHAM DOES WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION, CU WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST BFS APPROVAL OF STIPEND HIGHER THAN DOLS. L15,000, BUT NOT AS HIGH AS THE 20,000 OR MORE HE IS SEEKING. TOGETHER WITH STIPEND AND HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE POLES, THIS SHOULD MEET HIS NEEDS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS FAMILY IS NOT PLANNING TO ACCOMPANY HIM THIS TIME.

4. THE EXTRAORDINARY CU STIPEND MAY PREJUDICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FUTURE DIRECTORS OF THE CENTER, BUT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO AVOID ITS BECOMING A PRECEDENT. WE MAY HOWEVER HAVE NO OTHER OPTION IF WE STILL HOPE TO OPEN THE CENTER IN SEP 75. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IN FARNHAM'S APPOINTMENT WOULD BE THE START IT WOULD MAKE IN BROADENING US INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER. ILLINOIS, BY JOINING WITH INDIANA, MAY ENCOURAGE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MIDWEST CONSORTIUM TO JOIN IN THIS ENDEAVOR ONCE THE CENTER IS OPEN.

5. EMBASSY VIEWS REQUESTED ASAP. KISSINGER

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